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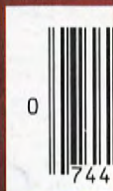
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

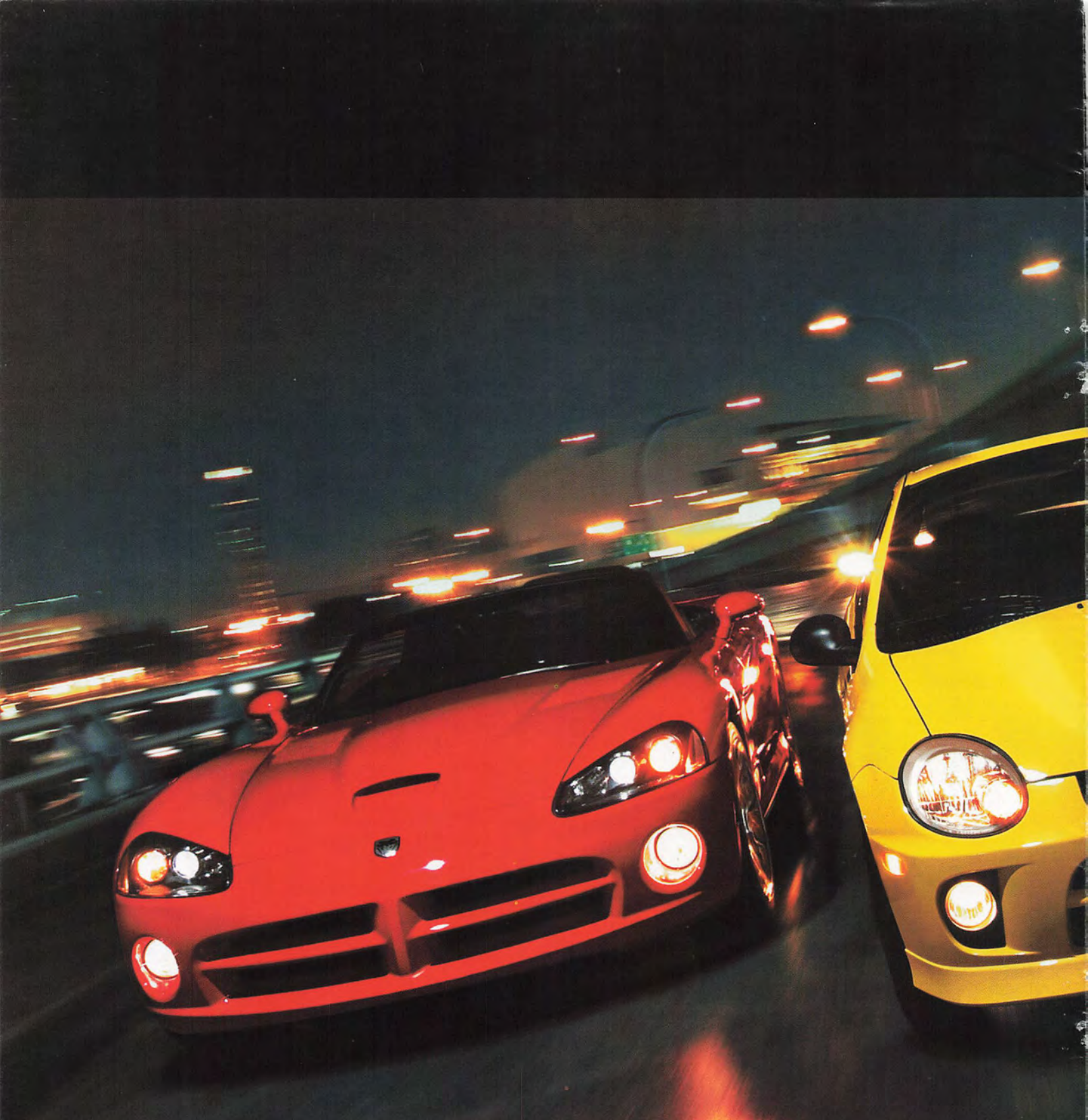
NOVEMBER, 2003
VOLUME 25, NUMBER 9

Inside:

Shula Talks College Football

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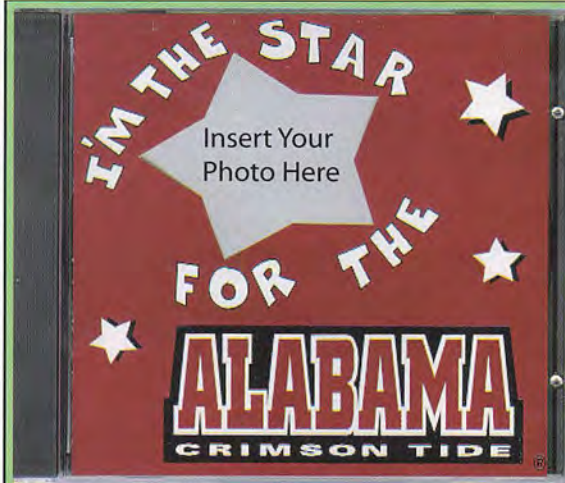
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

NOVEMBER, 2003

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Barry Fikes Photo



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BAMA SCORECARD

End Of An Era

A ruling by United States District Judge Scott Coogler seems to end any relationship of former Alabama Head Football Coach Mike Price and The University of Alabama. A month after ruling that The University and its trustees were immune from being sued, Coogler threw out the suit against Alabama and President Dr. Robert Witt on October 23. Price had filed a suit in July, two months after having been fired by Witt, seeking \$20 million. Witt fired Price for alleged inappropriate behavior while on a golf trip to Pensacola, Florida.

Price had never signed the seven-year, \$10 million contract he had been offered by The University. He was head coach only from the time of his hiring in December through his firing in May, never coaching a game.

Although there were reports that this ruling would adversely affect Price's \$20 million suit against Sports Illustrated magazine because it would prevent Witt or other University officials from testifying in that case, that was incorrect information. Anyone with knowledge germane to the suit could be subpoenaed in that suit.

Winston Progressing

Coach Mark Gottfried's Alabama men's basketball team is considered to be undermanned this year after having lost four starters from last season. And many believe The Man for the Crimson Tide will be sophomore Kennedy Winston, who missed half of last season while his academic situation was clarified with the NCAA. Now a sophomore, Kennedy is limited in early practices because of a knee injury, presumably incurred during the summer. Winston had surgery on his left knee on September 11, the arthroscopic procedure performed by Dr. James Andrews and Dr. Lyle Cain. Alabama started basketball practice October 18 and Winston was among those practicing, but on a limited basis.

Bama Trainer John Moor said Winston should be at full strength by November 1.

Eat And Meet

The Tuscaloosa Tip-Off Club will host its annual tip-off to the Crimson Tide basketball season November 4. It's the annual event where fans get to dine on a catered meal while they sit in the stands and watch the University of Alabama practice. Afterwards, Alabama Coach Mark Gottfried will talk about the upcoming season and introduce the team. Fans have an opportunity each year at this event to meet Alabama's players and coaches and, if they bring a camera, get their photos taken with the players and coaches or get their autographs.

Tickets are \$10 and should be reserved in advance by calling Sara House at (205) 345-5860 or emailing her at ashouse@wrscpa.com

Britt Suffers Broken Leg

Wesley Britt, Alabama's all-star caliber offensive tackle, is profiled in an article on Page 14 of this month's 'BAMA.

Unfortunately, Britt suffered a broken leg against Tennessee on October 24, after the interview for this story had taken place.

Britt underwent surgery October 25 and will be lost for the remainder of this season, but has indicated he intends to return for next year.

The junior from Cullman showed great leadership as he exhorted his teammates and Alabama fans even as he was leaving the field on stretcher.

More Gold

Eli Gold, the long-time play-by-play voice of Alabama football, has signed a four-year contract extension to continue in that post through the 2007 season. Gold, who is in his 16th year as football play-by-play announcer with the Tide, has signed a contract that matches the extension recently given by the University to Crimson Tide Sports Marketing as Bama's multi-media rights' holder, said the network manager, Butch Henry.

Newton Is SEC Consultant

C.M. Newton, who restored Alabama basketball to prominence in the 1970s, is back in Tuscaloosa and back in the Southeastern Conference. Newton, who went from Alabama to the SEC office to coaching at Vanderbilt and to director of athletics at his alma mater, Kentucky, has been the most important man in the nation insofar as amateur basketball is concerned. Following his retirement in 2000, Newton returned to Tuscaloosa and was selected by SEC Commissioner Mike Slive to serve as his advisor on basketball.

Newton was been instrumental in the leadership in the sport of basketball on the local, national and international levels in a 47-year career. He was president of USA Basketball from 1992-96, chairman of the USA Basketball Games Committee from 1988-92, member of the NABC Board of Directors from 1977-80 and 1981-89, chairman of the NCAA Basketball Rules Committee from 1979-85, chairman of the NCAA Basketball Officiating Committee from 1992-95 and served on the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Committee from 1992-99. Newton is currently serving as a member of the FIBA Central Board, where he will serve until 2006. In 2002, he was the CEO of the World Basketball Championships in Indianapolis.

In 1997, for his service to the sport of basketball, Newton was given the John Bunn Award by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. In 2000 he was enshrined into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

In 1969, Newton was named the head

coach at the University of Alabama, where he coached for 12 seasons. Newton led Alabama to three SEC championships (1974, 1975, 1976), two NCAA Tournaments, and four National Invitation Tournaments. He was named the SEC Coach of the Year five times while taking the Crimson Tide to a 211-123 record.

Hall Of Famers

Former Alabama stars Cornelius Bennett and Bobby Humphrey in football and Reginald King in basketball have been named to Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. The 2004 induction banquet will take place in the Birmingham Ballroom at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, Saturday, May 15, 2004. All three former Tiders are Birmingham natives.

Bennett was a three-time All-America linebacker at Alabama (1984-86) and was the first linebacker to win the Vince Lombardi Trophy given to the nation's top defensive lineman. He was 1986 SEC Player of the Year. He went on to an outstanding NFL career, named NFL Rookie of the Year and five times playing in the Super bowl and five times in the Pro Bowl.

Humphrey was a two-time All-America (1986-87) and is Alabama's all-time leader in all-purpose yardage (4,958 yards) despite bypassing his senior season to turn professional. He holds the single season rushing record at Bama (1,471 yards). He was selected as Alabama's Offensive Player of the Decade in the 1980s by readers of 'BAMA magazine. He was the first player in Denver Broncos history to rush for back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons.

King is the all-time leading scorer (2,168 points) and third-leading rebounder (1,279) in Bama basketball history. He was a two-time All-America (1978-79) and SEC Player of the Year and was 1979 SEC Athlete of the Year for all sports. He was a first round draft choice and played six years in the NBA.

We're Number 19!

Although Alabama has had a women's fast pitch softball team only since 1997, the Crimson Tide program has been ranked 19th best all-time by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. The selection was based on various mathematical criteria. Alabama Head Coach Patrick Murphy said, "I was surprised at first by the number of points we received because I never thought about it. But we've finished in the Top 10 three of the last five years and that's a big part of the rankings."

Compared to a number of other programs in the Top 50, the Tide is at somewhat of a disadvantage with the first NFCA rankings coming out in the 1995 season. Alabama didn't start softball until the 1997 season, missing the first two years of the poll.

However, since the first time Alabama appeared in the NFCA Top 25 in the 2000 season, Bama has been ranked for 49 of the 50 weeks. In its brief existence, the Crimson Tide has been to two Women's College World Series, won two SEC Tournament titles, and has been ranked as high as third in the nation.

Habetz In Hall

University of Alabama assistant softball coach Alyson Habetz has been named to the University of Louisiana-Lafayette "S" Club Hall of Fame. Habetz, a graduate from ULL in 1994, was a standout softball and basketball player for the Lady Cajuns. She helped lead the 1993 softball team to its first ever World Series appearance. A four-year letter winner in both sports, Habetz was a softball All-America in 1994 and earned Academic All-America status in 1993 and 1994. After her college career she went on to play professional baseball with the Colorado Silver Bullets for three years (1996-97) before coming to Alabama as an assistant coach in 1999.

Woman Of The Year

Kristin Sterner, senior captain of the 2003 SEC champion Alabama gymnastics team, has taken another step towards being named the NCAA Woman of the Year. Sterner has been selected as one of 10 finalists among the 51 nominees (one from each state plus the District of Columbia).

Sterner, who helped lead the Crimson Tide to an NCAA title, four regional championships, and two SEC crowns, was an 11-time All-America. She earned both NCAA and SEC Postgraduate scholarships and was the 2003 SEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

This is the 13th year that the Woman of the Year Award has been given and Alabama athletes have been state honorees nine times. Gymnasts Meredith Willard and Merritt Booth were also finalists, while other Tiders who were state winners were gymnasts Katherine Kelleher, Dana Dobransky, Lexa Evans, and Andree Pickens, golfer Lynn Bradley, and swimmer Amy DeVasher.

The finalists were selected by a committee comprised of athletics administrators from NCAA member colleges and universities from more than 340 entries. The NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics will select the 2003 NCAA Woman of the Year from among the 10 finalists. The national winner will be announced at an awards dinner November 1 in Indianapolis.

Men's Golf Gets Assistant

Michael Webb, a two-time All-America and a Georgia State Amateur champion, has been hired as assistant men's golf coach at Alabama. Current Tide Head Coach Jay Seawell coached Webb at Augusta State University, where Webb was a three-time captain.

Webb is a native of Elberton, Georgia and is a 2002 graduate of Augusta State University where he was a business management major. He played professionally on the Hoot-

ers Tour in 2002 and 2003 and finished first in the 2003 NGA Hooters Tour Ranking School. His amateur golf accomplishments include winning the 2001 Georgia State Amateur, finishing in the Top 16 at the 2001 U.S. Amateur, being a semifinalist at the North-South Amateur in 2001, and being named 2001 Georgia Player of the Year.

Webb fills the coaching vacancy created in late August when Matt Clark left Alabama to become head coach at Georgia State University.

Number One Ranking

When Alabama junior women's golfer Darby Sligh won the individual championship of Alabama's Ann Rhoads Intercollegiate last month, she got more than a tournament title. In the *Golfweek* rankings of college players that followed that tournament, Sligh, a native of North Augusta, South Carolina, was ranked as the nation's number one college woman player.

The women's team of Coach Betty Palmer was ranked 17th.

Academic Honor

The Alabama women's basketball team was named to the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll for the 2002-03 academic year. The Crimson Tide finished the 2002-03 academic year with an impressive 3.228 cumulative GPA including nine of the squad's 13 players posting grade points of 3.0 or higher for the year.

The Tide's classroom success included a pair of perfect semester performances with sophomore Katie Sipe earning a 4.0 last fall and senior Shun Hunter, who graduated in May, posting a 4.0 in her final undergraduate semester this past spring. Sipe led the team with a 3.928 GPA for the year.

Alabama was the only Southeastern Conference women's basketball program to garner the prestigious honor for 2002-03.

Kimani Death

Last April 16, just before he was to earn his degree and embark on a professional track career, Crimson Tide distance runner David Kimani collapsed and died. Dr. Art Shores, the state medical examiner with the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, recently announced that the official cause of death was "undetermined natural disease."

Alabama team physician, Dr. Jeff Laubenthal, praised the diligence and exhaustive investigation of Dr. Shores and his staff in determining the cause of Kimani's death. "Given the unexpected manner of David's death, it was extremely important to us that all avenues were explored during the investigation. David's reputation as a champion and a respected member of the Alabama community was upheld by the findings of the autopsy. The clinical evidence supports that in all probability David suffered a fatal cardiac arrhythmia while eating lunch. No evidence of illicit or illegal drug use was found in the comprehensive investigation."

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Lynne P. McNair, publisher

Tide Is Not Lucky In Its Schedule

by Kirk McNair

It has been tough going for the Crimson Tide

As Alabama finally limped into its one open weekend of the year after nine consecutive football games, it was clear the Crimson Tide had not enjoyed good schedule luck this season. Most notable is that it has been bad luck for Bama that is opponents generally have been good, making the Tide play a schedule that ranks among the nation's most difficult.

An overtime game particularly involves a measure of luck. After all, the two teams have played for 60 minutes and been even. And Alabama's schedule included losing two games in overtime, and neither in just one extra period. The loss to Arkansas was in two overtimes, while the loss to Tennessee took five.

The mention of Tennessee brings up what has become a bone of contention among Alabama followers. Although the Southeastern Conference denies any conspiracy theory, Crimson Tide fans can't help but believe that the Vols got preferred treatment from former Commissioner Roy Kramer, perceived as an unabashed Tennessee fan and Alabama hater. For years Tennessee has had open dates prior to the Vols' games against Florida (at the time the schedule was made the primary impediment to the SEC Eastern Division championship for Tennessee) and Alabama (long the Vols' top rival). Did it help Tennessee that it had an open date before Saturday night's five-hour marathon?

Next year Tennessee is scheduled to have a game the week before the Alabama game. The Vols will have their open dates before Florida and Auburn games and play Mississippi on October 16, the week before hosting Bama on October 23. But it's a one-year-only burden for the Vols. In 2005 it's back to open dates before Florida and Alabama.

Open dates before Alabama games are hardly a rarity for SEC opponents of the Tide. This year is an extreme example, but it is normal for many league teams to be given an open date prior to playing Bama. This year the SEC office provided open dates to seven of Alabama's eight conference opponents. Only Auburn, which plays Georgia on November 15 before hosting Bama on November 22, was matched against a league foe.

In addition to Tennessee, SEC teams with open dates prior to playing Alabama this year are Georgia, LSU and Mississippi State. Three teams had open dates but filled them with weak non-conference opponents—Kentucky playing Murray State,

Arkansas playing North Texas, and Mississippi playing Arkansas State.

But every Alabama graduate does not believe the SEC office is conspiring against Alabama. Mark Womack is the number two man in the conference office, the executive associate commissioner, and he has been with the league office since 1978, right after earning his degree from The University.

"Believe it or not, we don't make the schedules by first of all going through and putting in the open dates," Womack said. "In fact, the schedules were made pretty much by all the school's athletics directors as much as was possible."

The schedule "problem" began when South Carolina and Arkansas were added to the league prior to the 1992 season. In addition to the obvious task of working schedules to give the new members league games, with the expansion to 12 teams the SEC was able to divide into two divisions and have a league championship game.

As Womack explained it, a number of things were done that affected the schedule. "Everyone had to try to find dates to make room for our 5-2-1 format," Womack said. In those days each school played its five division opponents, two "traditional" opponents from the other division on an annual basis (Alabama played Vanderbilt and Tennessee), and one rotating opponent from the other division. Since then the format has been changed to a 5-1-2—still the five division opponents, but only one traditional (Tennessee for Bama) and now two rotating opponents from the other division.

"Then," Womack continued, "we had to work back from the SEC Championship game. That meant that the Alabama-Tennessee game, for instance, which had traditionally fallen on the third Saturday in October began falling on the fourth Saturday in some years. But we tried to get those traditional match-ups as close as possible to where they normally fall."

The league also had to work around non-

conference games that are traditional games for some, such as Georgia playing Georgia Tech and Florida playing FSU. And the schedule had to accommodate some contracts schools had with non-conference opponents.

"Everyone has two open dates in the schedule," Womack said. "Some teams—such as Alabama—elect to take one of those open dates at the end of the season. [In 2002 and this year Alabama, ineligible for a bowl game, filled that end-of-season open date with Hawaii.] A team that has two open dates during the season has a better chance of having an open date before its game against Alabama."

He said that one specific area in which the league office helped Alabama was in altering a schedule that had Alabama with an open date before Tennessee, but Mississippi coming in right after the Tennessee game, where Alabama now has an open date. "That proposed schedule would have had Alabama finishing the season with five straight SEC games, and we didn't think that would be fair," Womack said. He said the league also tries to guard against a team playing more than two consecutive road games.

And, Womack said, the schedule can be changed by an SEC team having an opportunity to get a game against a major non-conference opponent.

Finally, he said, the league office has to make sure that it has enough television inventory—that is, games that are attractive to the television networks (CBS, ESPN and ESPN2, and Jefferson Pilot) which pay high dollars for television rights.

Next year Georgia goes off the Alabama schedule and South Carolina will be added as an Eastern Division opponent. Additionally, next year's schedule (and the 2005 schedule) will be weaker than had been originally planned because of a change in the Penn State series.

Penn State was scheduled for games in 2004 and 2005, one in Tuscaloosa, one in State College. Instead, the team s have de-

2003 Alabama Football Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Site	*Time/TV	Score (Attendance) or Series Record
Aug. 30	South Florida	Birmingham	2:00/ESPN	40-17 (76,780)
Sept. 6	Oklahoma	Tuscaloosa	6:45/ESPN	13-20 (83,818)
Sept. 13	Kentucky	Tuscaloosa	6:45/ESPN	27-17 (83,018)
Sept. 20	Northern Illinois	Tuscaloosa	6:00/PPV	16-19 (83,018)
Sept. 27	Arkansas	Tuscaloosa	2:30/CBS	31-34, 2 OT (82,818)
Oct. 4	Georgia	Athen s	2:30/CBS	23-37 (92,058)
Oct. 11	Southern Miss (HC)	Tuscaloosa	2:00/PPV	17-3 (82,818)
Oct. 18	Mississippi	Oxford	11:30/J-P	28-43 (60,825)
Oct. 25	Tennessee	Tuscaloosa	2:30/CBS	43-51, 5 OT (83,018)
Nov. 8	Mississippi State	Starkville	11:30/J-P	Alabama leads, 69-15-3
Nov. 15	LSU	Tuscaloosa	TBA	Alabama leads, 43-18-5
Nov. 22	Auburn	Auburn	TBA	Alabama leads, 38-28-1
Nov. 29	Hawaii	Honolulu	TBA	Alabama leads, 1-0-0

*Central time and subject to change

played that series to 2013 and 2014. Alabama, needing home games for budget reasons, will instead play two home games and they will be against Utah State instead of Penn State. Bama's other non-conference opponents next year will be Western Carolina and Southern Miss.

This season Alabama has five non-conference games because it is a year in which every school was allowed 12 games, plus Bama took advantage of the NCAA provision that allows a team to play an extra game if it will go to Hawaii.

Alabama Athletics Director Mal Moore is on the lookout for a new non-conference opponent beginning in 2006. That's because by mutual agreement, Alabama and Southern Miss are not going to renew the contract which runs out after the 2005 game. Southern Miss hopes to add some games against teams that will play in Hattiesburg.

Alabama now leads the series, which began in 1947, by a count of 32-6-2, with all games being played in Alabama.

One other potential schedule controversy: Alabama does not play a game at Birmingham's Legion Field next year, and the final game currently scheduled for Birmingham is the season-opener against Middle Tennessee State in 2005. Some believe that Alabama played its final game at Legion Field against South Florida this year.

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College (Ball) A Learning Experience

by Kirk McNair

Coaching Bama football not same as in the NFL

From time-to-time it is brought up that Mike Shula appears to be a "youthful" head coach. And Alabama's head football coach is young at 38. But as he points out, he has been a coach for 16 years. Prior to this season, all his coaching experience was in the National Football League. For the first 12 or so of those years, he was coaching men who were older than he. He feels now that for the first time there is some positive age separation between himself and the young men he is coaching.

There are obvious differences in coaching NFL players compared to college players, including differences in age and skill levels. Shula noted that in college the coaches are teaching more fundamentals, while coaches in professional football are more concerned with schemes.

But, said Shula, "The biggest thing that is different is the time. In college, you don't have a chance to work with the players until afternoons. That's sufficient, but you have to be more efficient. You have to take into account there are other demands on a college player, who is a student, as opposed to an NFL player, who is football all the time."

A typical day in college football is the team arriving from classes or lunch for meetings at around 2 p.m., then getting taped and dressed for practice, and being finished about two hours after hitting the field. Some may watch videotapes, but that is voluntary. In the NFL, the day starts with a position meeting early in the morning, followed by a team meeting. After two to three hours of meetings, there is a lunch break, then early afternoon meetings. Practices last about two hours. And it is not unusual for an evening meeting to watch videotapes of the practice.

Shula could be considered a child of the NFL. Although he had a grand career as a quarterback at Alabama, Mike Shula was always known as the son of Don Shula, the most successful coach in NFL history. And Mike Shula began his post-college life as a pro player (briefly) and then coach. And, as he has proclaimed, he would still be in the NFL if any college other than his alma mater had come calling. The bizarre circumstances of that last spring are well-documented.

Now a head coach at the college level for half a year, Shula has discovered "a lot more things come across your desk that don't have anything to do with Xs and Os."

A well-known definition of the difference between an assistant coach and a head coach is that an assistant makes suggestions and the head man makes decisions. "And," Shula said, "those decisions can affect a lot of people. I understand better now why some decisions are made, decisions that I might have questioned from the perspective of assistant coach."

The aspects of skill level and available time mean the professional game can be more complex than that played by college men. However, Shula pointed out that "Scheme-wise, you see things in the college game that you don't see in the NFL. There's more variety. You see a lot of the same schemes on Sundays. And, of course, you never see the option in the NFL."

"Something as simple as jersey numbers is a change," Shula said. "By rule, in the NFL players in certain positions have to wear jerseys with a number for that position. You're also not likely to see a guy playing safety one play and linebacker the next in the NFL, but you do see that in college. And college teams play more players. In the NFL they'll rotate the defensive linemen, but you usually don't see back-up linebackers or defensive backs."

He said there are formations that can be used in college that are not legal in the NFL. But in the NFL a lineman can be made a legal receiver. Of course, it has to be announced, so there's no deceit involved.

It may come as something of a surprise that the biggest surprise for Shula in moving to the college game has been a pleasant surprise. "The biggest surprise," he said, "has been how the guys have picked up the things we wanted them to do and how the players and coaches have meshed."

He said that "a lot of things this year were different, unique really, from any other year. We've asked the players to be flexible and to not worry about things they can't control, and we have to do the same as coaches."

Shula said a common thread of football in the NFL and football in the NCAA is that teams must evaluate and sign new talent. But the mechanics are different. Pro teams draft players from the college ranks, and players have virtually no choice in the matter. College teams recruit players from the high school and junior college ranks. NFL teams don't all handle the selection of players the same way. Some teams leave it entirely in the hands of the scouting staff. Shula always coached for teams in which the coaches were actively involved in evaluating college players. "I had the fewest to evaluate because I was always coaching either quarterbacks or tight ends," he said. "I might have as many as 25 to evaluate. Some position coaches might have to evaluate 65 or 75 or more."

Shula did say there is a difference in looking at college videotapes of players and looking at videotapes of high school players, which are sometimes shot by the parent of a player. "Sometimes we'll want to look at a defensive back and he'll barely be in the picture because the camera was trained on the son of the guy shooting," Shula said.

He does find recruiting intriguing, and no one expects the personable Alabama coach to be anything but excellent at this important craft. "I enjoy getting to meet the players and their parents, getting to know them and letting them know about us," he said. He said he believed Bama was probably behind in recruiting when he took over in May, but said, "I think we've made up ground." And while it comes up occasionally, it is rare for Shula to be asked about his Alabama head coaching predecessors and their effect on the program. "They seem to be more interested in the present and the future," Shula said.

Shula said, "And in college it's a treat to meet the parents of the players coming to the games each week. We learn more about the guys and they and their parents learn more about us."

One thing that is similar to the NFL is the level of competition in the SEC, Shula said. "In this conference, you have to play well every week," he said. "If you don't, you're probably not going to win. Even as recently as when I played, sometimes there were games won by teams that didn't play their best. But now, it's not very likely. I knew before I came, but it's been reinforced, that this conference is NFL-like. First of all, the coaching is great. And there is talent. There has always been a lot of great players in the SEC."

He said that teams at all levels can benefit from momentum. But in both the NFL and SEC, he said, it goes only so far. "One thing that I learned of the years in the NFL is that momentum is great, but you can't just say we're on a little bit of a roll and then think that you can get by based on last week's performance. You can use that but you have to be ready to play and be on top of your game, so to speak. If you're not you're going to have a difficult time winning."

The college atmosphere appeals to Shula and his family. "We haven't been able to enjoy it as much as we will," he said. "So far I've seen a lot more of my office than I have anything else. But sometimes on my way in I'll drive through campus. One of the best things to me is seeing those motor homes pull in each week. That's something you don't see in the NFL. And hearing the band practice when we're on the (football) practice field? Nothing compares to that."

Ironically, because college games are ordi-

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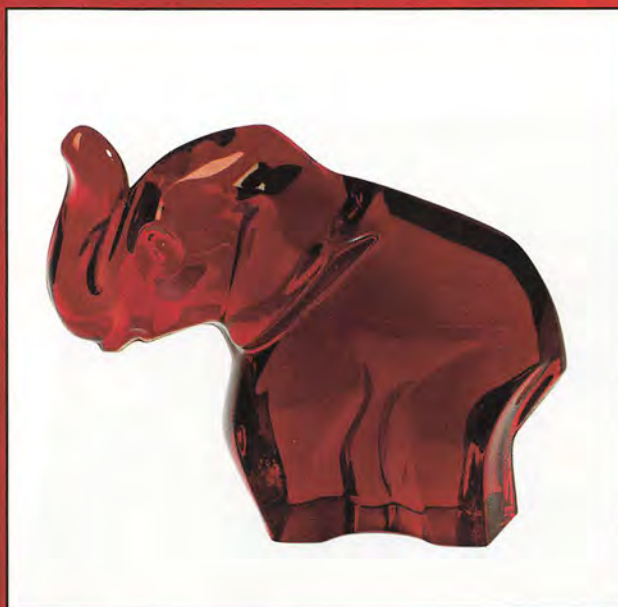


narily on Saturdays—not usually a long work day in the NFL—and professional games are on Sundays—usually a long, hard day for college coaches—Shula was able to keep up with Alabama more easily as a pro coach than he has been able to keep up with the NFL this year. “If we were on the road, the players would have their portable television sets watching college games,” Shula said. “I always checked to see if I could get the Alabama game. But it seemed like I usually got to watch about three quarters then had to go to a meeting, so it was often later be-

fore I found out how the game came out.”

Shula knows that part of the territory for a head football coach is speaking engagements to alumni groups, quarterback clubs, etc. But this year he put them on hold. “I think everyone understood that we aren’t doing much of that this year because we had—and have—so little time to get caught up. And I’ll admit that I’m going to be a little selfish in the future to have some family time. But when we get into a normal routine—and I don’t know when that will be—we’ll be more available.”

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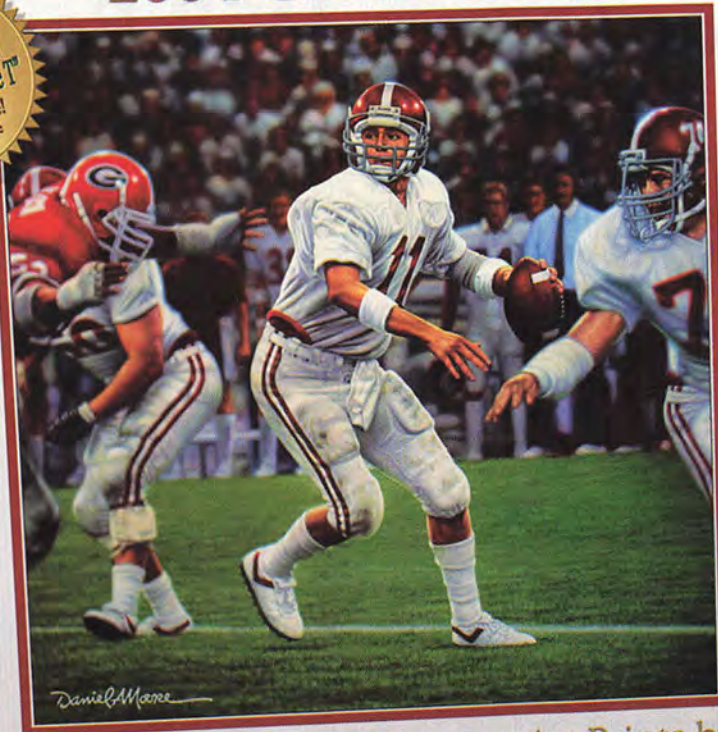
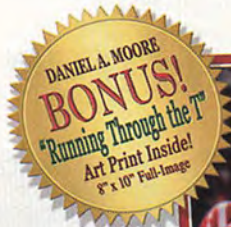
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Big Man Hopes Future Will Be Huge

by J.E. Lisby

Junior offensive tackle has tools to be outstanding

If Wesley Britt needs any extra incentive to return for his senior season at Alabama, the All-America left tackle need look no further than across the table at the next Britt family dinner. Middle brother Taylor is already on the squad playing defensive tackle. So if "little" Justin Britt (he's actually 6-4 and rated among the top prospects in Alabama) signs with the Tide this year, then Wesley and his football-playing siblings will earn a spot in the Bama record books. Other famous brothers have played for the Tide, notably the Hannahs: John, Charley and David. But in the long history of Crimson Tide football, never before have three brothers been on the squad at the same time.

"That would be really neat," Britt said. "At a school like Alabama with its traditions, it would be awesome to play with both my brothers. That would be huge. When I was a senior in high school, Justin was in eighth grade. I've never played against him in organized football. Of course, we've gone at it in backyard basketball and football."

"Huge" only begins to scratch the surface of that mental image. Collectively the Britt

brothers weigh over 840 pounds. It's a wonder the Britt family driveway didn't give way under the strain—not to mention their poor basketball hoop. "We got pretty physical," Britt said of their games of "basketbrawl." He said, "We didn't call many fouls. You've heard 'No blood, no foul.' With us it was 'No broken bones, no foul.' Justin has probably got the biggest mean streak of all of us. He had to. Otherwise, he'd have spent the whole time running inside to complain. Of course with my dad, it wouldn't do him any good. 'What's that? Just one broken nose? You're coming in here crying over a broken nose? Get back out there!'"

Wesley has had other preparation for the tough game of football. As a youngster, while most boys were enjoying lazy summer days off from school, young Wesley spent "quality time" with his grandfather learning the value of hard work. "My grandfather would wake me up in the morning during the summers to go dig ditches for him, putting in septic tanks," Britt said. "We'd leave by 5:30 in the morning. He'd run the backhoe, and I'd shovel in the ditches, leveling out the gravel behind him. We didn't have anything but a couple of Mountain Dews and a Moon Pie. And we wouldn't come back until the sun went down. You had to be tough out there. I learned to work then."

His grandfather taught him not to be afraid of hard work, but Wesley credits his big sister with toughening him up. Five years older than Wesley, Melissa was the baby-sitter. And her 6-2 stature provided all the "authority" the teen girl needed. "She's a fireball," Britt said. "Back



Wesley Britt

then I was this skinny little kid, and she could push me around. We'd jump out the back window to try to get away from her."

Good enough to earn a volleyball scholarship to college, Melissa proves that athleticism (and height) isn't limited to the Britt males.

The Britt home has long been home to friends as well as family. Wesley's Bama teammate Justin Britt is in that group. Wesley and Justin arrived together as members of the Tide's 2000 signing class. They are fast friends. And they've held down the left side of the Tide offensive line for three years now. "We are different about a lot of things, but we've got a great friendship," Britt said. "We think we complement each other. Where I might not be as strong, then Justin is and vice versa. That helps us play together even better."

The two push each other on the field and in the weight room. Britt said, "We have a great respect for each other, but we do butt heads about a lot of things. Who won the last wind sprint. That sort of thing." Both players received Freshman All-America recognition after the 2001 season. Both were named post-season All-SEC last year. And both were pre-season All-America this summer.

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Alabama Offensive Line Coach Bobby Connelly said, "Wesley's size and athleticism give him a chance to be good. He's a big, tall kid with long leverage. He's 6-7, but most of the time he plays like he's 6-3 or 6-4, because of his flexibility. That's a big plus—big and tall for the passing game, but also having the athleticism to bend and block on the run. Those are great tools."

Defensive end Antwan Odom, probably Alabama's top pro prospect, has practiced across from Britt for three years. "Technique-wise, speed and strength, from year to year Wesley just gets better and better," Odom said. "He's very strong in his legs and lower body, and he's plenty quick enough to play on the next level. If you beat Wesley one time with a move, you're not going to beat him again. I figured that out quickly."

The all-star face-offs between Britt and Odom have been confined to the practice field, but earlier in the season Bama's big left tackle got a chance to prove himself against one of the best defensive players in the nation. Georgia's David Pollack was voted All-America and Most Valuable Player in the SEC last season, and when Bama and the Bulldogs battled in Athens last month the two players were matched up against each other for most of the day. Britt said, "I was looking forward to the game personally, because it was an opportunity to play against one of the most highly-rated defensive ends and most high-profile players out there. It was a chance to measure up and see what you're really about."

That afternoon neither backed down an inch. On several occasions Britt and Pollack continued to battle after the play was whistled dead—nothing dirty or against the rules, just two competitors going at it. "It was just competition," Britt said. "There really weren't two words exchanged between the two of us the whole game. We were just being physical, pushing each other around the whole time."

Georgia won that war, winning the game, 37-23. But Britt could take satisfaction in doing his job. In the official post-game statistics Pollack was credited with only one tackle, and it was an assisted one at that.

Despite his success, Britt exhibits humility. He said, "I realize that it's not just me that's gotten me to where I am. It's The University of Alabama; it's God that has given me talent. I believe everything happens for a reason. There is a reason why I'm playing football at Alabama."

Britt has seen both good times and bad in his college career. Signed as one of the top-rated prospects in the South, Britt joined the defending SEC champions for his first fall camp. That 2000 squad imploded, falling from a pre-season top five ranking to a 3-8 record. Amid rumors of an ongoing NCAA investigation, his first head coach and staff were sent packing. Though only a redshirt freshman, Britt started in 2001, playing a key

role in his team's winning record and Independence Bowl victory. On the field 2002 was even better as the Tide finished 10-3, best in the SEC West. But since last season's final victory against Hawaii, Britt and his teammates have watched helplessly as one head coach deserted them and another's actions got him fired.

Things are at least stable on the coaching front now, but the 2003 Tide has struggled on the field. Britt admits to being frustrated. "You can't get too down, because you've got to be able to compete the next game," he said. "That's the good thing about football. We've always got next week to go back out and redeem ourselves. We've got to turn this thing around."

Several key Tiders from last season are now playing in the pros, and a few others have been unable to contribute due to injury. But to a degree the men who won 10 games last season are struggling. Britt said there is a fine line between success and failure. "Teams really are closer than fans think," Britt said. "It could just be one injury at a key position like defensive end. I think our team in 2000 was hurt more than fans understood when Kindal Moorehead went down at the beginning of the season. He was a big-time player and a leader for that team. This year we're missing linebackers Brooks Daniels and Cornelius

Wortham. Both are big-time players and leaders for us. Small things that people often don't see can make or break a game or a team."

Last season Alabama ran the ball almost at will. This year it sometimes struggles to run at all. In less than 12 months Britt and his fellow offensive linemen have gone from heroes to scapegoats. He said, "Last year we were winning and we were considered the best offensive line out there. This year we're better individually; we're picking up on stuff during the games that we never recognized before. But the way our games are turning out it's all negative spin. All of a sudden the players are no good."

Despite the team's struggles this season, Britt's status as a future NFL prospect has not changed. He's looking forward to improving his game and playing well enough next season to raise his draft-day stock. Britt said, "I just need to keep working, keep focusing on what I can control. I need to keep getting better to make the dream become a reality."

If he has his way, surrounded by family and friends, Britt will make his final college season his best. "I'd love to come back and lead the team to a big bowl game," Britt said. "If my little brother comes here, I'd love to play with him. That would be a great situation. For many reasons, my final year should be huge."

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DeMeco Ryans:

He's Doing Everything 'Just Right'

by Greg Wallace

Soph linebacker steps up to lead Bama defensively

On a Tuesday afternoon in late September, reporters in The University of Alabama football complex surrounded DeMeco Ryans. Three days earlier, the Crimson Tide sophomore weakside linebacker had enjoyed the best football game of his young life, making 25 tackles in Alabama's 34-31 double-overtime loss to Arkansas in Bryant-Denny Stadium. Although Bama defensive statistics are sketchy prior to the early 1970s, that 25-tackle effort set a new Crimson Tide regular season mark insofar as existing records.

This, of course, was topic one with the sports scribes surrounding him. But Ryans seemed less excited than the sportswriters by the idea of talking tackles.

"It's really amazing, but it still hurts to do it in a losing effort," he said softly, with a smile on his face. "That's all I hear now, every day, is 'tackle record.'"

Ryans, a shy business major from Bessemer, is one of those rare souls who'd rather accomplish feats on the football field than talk about them. If he keeps up his current production, no one will complain. Ryans is making a huge impact in his first full season as a starting college linebacker. Through the first half of the season Ryans was Alabama's leading tackler, the statistical leader in the Southeastern Conference, and ranked among the top five nationally in tackles.

For a player who was expected to spend the 2003 season backing up senior strong-side linebacker Cornelius Wortham, it is an amazing accomplishment. "He does everything perfect," senior linebacker Derrick

Sophomore DeMeco Ryans has taken advantage of an opportunity and is not only starting for the Crimson Tide. He's starring for Bama.

Barry Fikes Photo

Pope said of Ryans. "You don't call many people perfect, but DeMeco—he does things right."

Ryans grew up in Bessemer, an Alabama fan in a family of Auburn fans. That Auburn loyalty stemmed from 1985 Heisman Trophy winner and legendary Auburn running back Bo Jackson being a Bessemer native.

"I always grew up an Alabama fan, watching Alabama football," Ryans said. "My family watched Bo Jackson and became Auburn fans, but I wanted to do something differ-

ent."

"Something different" led him to Tuscaloosa; Ryans chose Alabama over offers from Auburn, Mississippi, Mississippi State, Alabama-Birmingham, Louisville and South Florida.

He spent a true freshman season as Wortham's backup (Ryans had 27 tackles and one start). But no one had any idea what was ahead.

Before preseason practice began, few expected Ryans to make such a name for himself this fall. Ryans himself admitted after the fact that he expected to play behind Wortham this year and step into a starting role as a junior in 2004. Brooks Daniels' abrupt departure changed all that. One day before preseason practice was to start, Daniels, the only player in Alabama history to record consecutive 100-tackle seasons, withdrew from school for undisclosed personal reasons and left the team.

Joe Kines, Bama's defensive coordinator and linebackers coach, threw Ryans into a battle with redshirt freshman Juwan Garth for Daniels' weakside linebacker spot, and Ryans quickly claimed the position as his own.

Ryans said it was a natural progression.

"You always have to be ready, because anything can happen," he said. "Being a backup, you always have to be ready to be a starter. That's the main role of a backup, being able to step in and not slacking off from what a starter can do. You have to perform at the same level that a starter performed at."

So far Ryans has done that—and then some. Following a seven-tackle performance against South Florida, he broke out with 16 tackles in a loss to number one Oklahoma. He had at least seven tackles in each of his first seven games, marking himself as a model of consistency.

That's Ryans' simple goal. Improve from game to game, and keep the attention off of yourself.

"You gain a lot of confidence from the first game," he said. "Each game you're just trying to get better, you're watching the game film, viewing your mistakes, just trying to capitalize and not make the same mistakes each week. That's what makes you better."

So do his solid all-around skills, said Kines. Ryans' numbers aren't inflated. They're a product of his amazing talent.

"DeMeco is fundamentally sound," Kines said. "He's not a fly-by-night linebacker. Sometimes a linebacker will just run around and make plays and be out of position, and it'll come back and hurt you the next play. But he doesn't do that. He just does things right. He's always in the right place, he doesn't blow assignments, he's got a good eye for the ball, and he really runs to the ball."

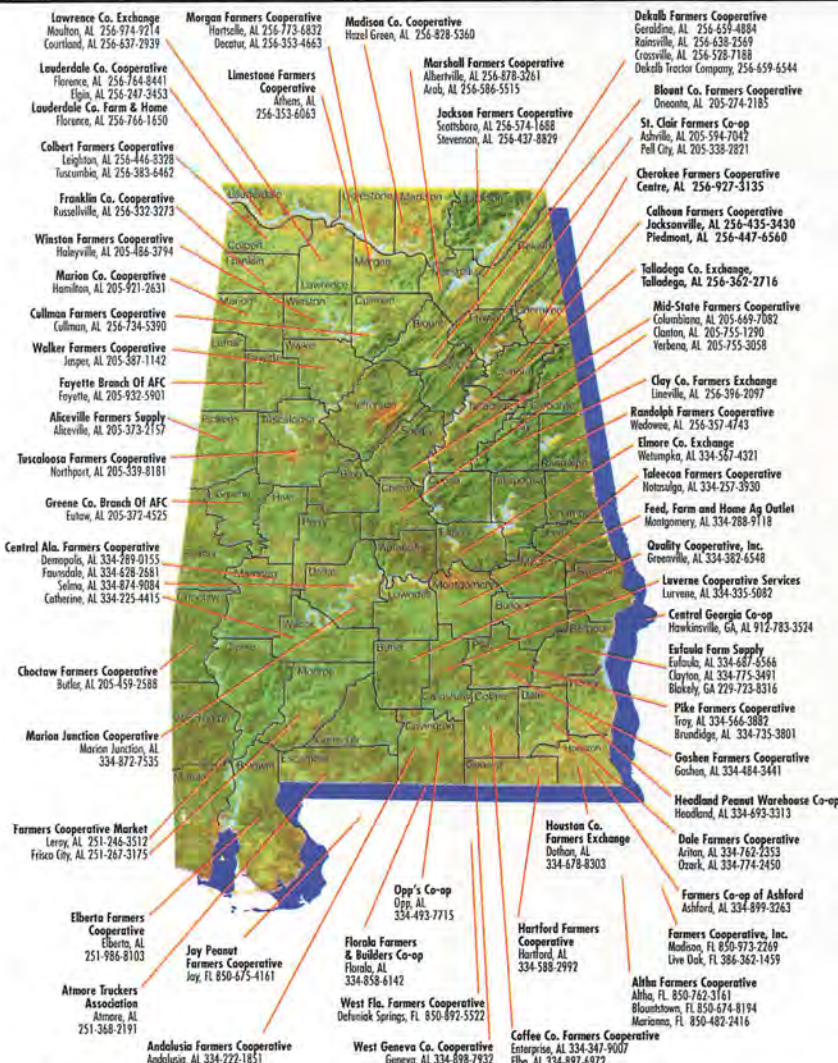
Such talent is almost in-born. Ryans says his mindset is natural, favoring brains over brawns and attitude.

"I describe myself as being very instinctive," he said. "When I see something, it's running to the ball and making tackles."

All over the field, which Kines says is a mark of Ryans' talent and intensity.

"A lot of his tackles are all the way across

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the field," Kines said. "Once it gets past the point of no return, it's just up to the player. He runs to the ball extremely well, and it's all heart and desire."

Ryans is the Teddy Roosevelt of the Crimson Tide. He carries a big stick, and he definitely speaks softly. Kines said Ryans rarely speaks even in the confines of team meetings. When he does, it is extremely meaningful.

"He literally doesn't talk," Kines said. "He's about as big a pleasure to coach as you'd ever want. If he says something, you'd better write it down. Because if he asks a question, he wants to know the answer."

"He doesn't jibber-jabber or chit-chat. He just comes in and takes good notes."

Ryans readily admits his focus is placed squarely on the football field, not making bold, outrageous statements off it. In his own unassuming way, Ryans just does his job.

"I'm not a very talkative guy," he said. "Most of the time I'm quiet. I know that my job is doing it on the field."

He does his job off the field, too. Ryans spent his freshman year as an engineering major, then changed to business management this summer. His eventual goal is managing his own business, and he says he maintains a "3.4 to 3.5" grade point average.

"It's hard," Ryans said. "I have football almost every second of the day, and if it's not football, I have to go study and work on a project. It's tough being a student-athlete."

In reality, Ryans has class wherever he goes, be it academic classrooms, the Alabama football complex, or Bryant-Denny Stadium.

It seems like he's always being tested.

"Football seems like a classroom, too,"

Ryans said. "taking notes and writing everything down."

Ryans has it all together—on the field, in the classroom, and in life.

Quietly, he's proving himself the total pack-

age of Alabama's defense.

"I think his parents did a heck of a job raising him up and doing whatever they did," sophomore middle linebacker Freddie Roach said. "He's a heck of a player."

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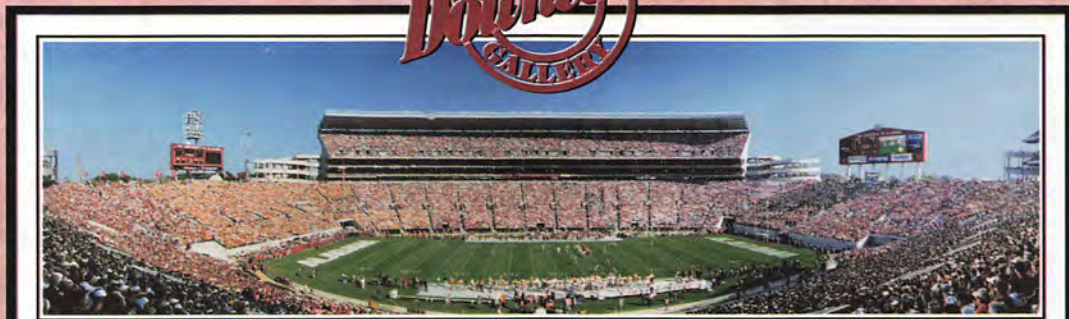


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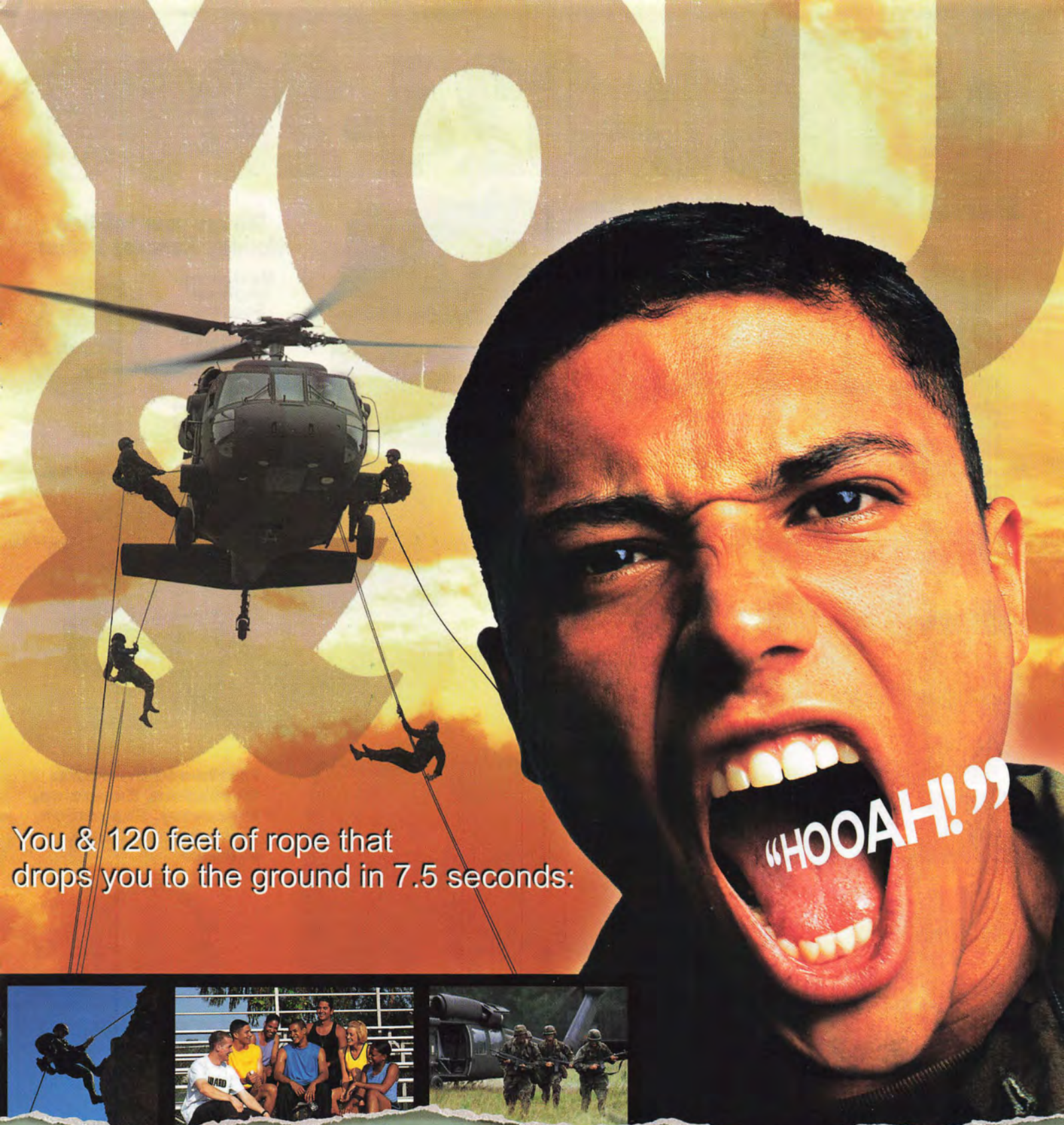
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New Staff Has Talent, But It's Young

by Andrew Varble II

Both men's and women's teams have strong diving

Alabama football wasn't the only Crimson Tide program to go through a last minute coaching change this year. If you thought Mike Shula and his team didn't have a lot of preparation time for the season, consider Alabama's new swimming and diving staff. When former Head Coach Don Wagner resigned in mid-July, the search was on for a new coach. The search didn't take long, but that was a good thing, since school was slated to start in less than a month. After a brief, but intense nationwide search, Athletics Director Mal Moore brought former Tide Assistant Eric McIlquham back as head coach, teaming him with Assistant Head Coach Sonya Porter, another past Tide assistant.

Both McIlquham and Porter were members of Jonty Skinner's Crimson Tide coaching staff in the early 1990s, and both came highly recommended not only by Skinner, who is on staff at United States Swimming, but by many others on the national scene.

Hired in mid-August, the coaching duo walked in the door just days before the student-athletes returned to campus.

"It was a fast transition, there's no doubt about it, and we're still running full out and probably will be until summer, but Sonya and I are very excited to be back at Alabama," McIlquham said. "There are great things to be done here and we're going to make sure Alabama returns to the point where it's competitive with the best."

McIlquham and Porter filled out the staff with assistant coaches Craig Nigsor and Glenn Neufeld. Pat Greenwell, in his 15th season at The Capstone and one of the nation's most-renowned diving coaches, remains on staff. The swimming and diving staff coaches both men's and women's teams.

Not only has McIlquham and company had to deal with a quick turn around, but they are also working with something of a depleted roster. On the women's side, Anne Poleska, one of the fastest breaststrokers in the world, is taking a redshirt year to train for the Olympics. The men have been hit a little harder by the Olympics bug and graduation. Two-time NCAA 200-meter butterfly champion Stefan Gherghel returned to school this fall and will continue to train

with the Tide, but he exhausted his eligibility last season. Three other Tide All-Americans from last season, including NCAA 200 breaststroke runner-up Vlad Polyakov, who would have been a sophomore this season, have also chosen to take this year to train for the Olympic Games. Sprinters Apostolis Tsgarakis and Spiros Bitsakis, who would have been a sophomore and a junior respectively this season, along with junior backstroker Franck Southon, will train for Athens, Greece (site of the 2004 Olympics), instead of Athens, Georgia (site of the 2004 SEC Championships).

That's not to say there isn't talent on the 2003-04 rosters, but the talent is young. Alabama returns three All-America performers for both the women's and men's teams.

Fifth-year senior diver Lane Bassham is the Tide's top returning member for 2004, coming off a summer spent competing for the United States National Team. Bassham is a threat to win any competition she enters and gives the Tide a solid

chance at an individual national title in her senior year.

Bassham will be joined in the diving events by sophomore Crystal Rasmussen and freshmen Jenna Hastreiter and Tara Theilemann, and that much describes the women's squad. The team includes 11 freshmen and six sophomores.

Sophomore Victoria Genova hopes to build on a rookie season that saw her shatter the Crimson Tide's 200-meter butterfly record and become the first Tide woman to go under two minutes in that event. Genova will be joined this season by rookie Melina Bassino.

Sophomores Kathryn Hallquist and Alison Lafavers return for year two after earning All-America honors as part of the Tide's NCAA relay team last season. Hallquist will continue to lead the Tide in the backstroke events along with sophomore Anna Grant. That duo will be joined by freshmen Kim Sharpe and Becca Rogers along with seniors Ann Ross and Liz McGiffin. Grant will also see action in the individual medley.

Lafavers led the Tide's sprint corps last

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New Alabama Head Swimming And Diving Coach Eric McIlquham (center) has put together an excellent staff that includes newcomers as well as holdover Head Diving Coach Pat Greenwell (right). The staff includes (left to right) Assistant Head Coach Sonya Porter, Craig Nigsor, Head Coach Eric McIlquham, Glenn Neufeld, and Diving Coach Pat Greenwell. Barry Fikes Photo

season, along with sophomore Eleonora Markou. Markou and Genova could also see middle distance action this season. Ross and sophomore Sonya Adams will add depth in the sprint freestyle arena.

Also slated to see freestyle action will be rookies Bassino, Bridgett Belyea, Amanda Gilbert, Rogers, Arlene Semeco, Tara Theilmann and Nicole Weatherman. Gilbert, Semeco and Theilmann will work mainly in the sprints while Belyea and Weatherman will tend toward the middle distance and distance events.

In the breaststroke events there will be a whole new lineup in place with freshmen Andrea Bernthal, Gilbert and Ashley Messmore.

The men's squad has a nice balance of youth and experience, with 11 athletes in the freshman and sophomore classes to go with 11 in the junior and senior classes.

The Tide will be led by junior All-America diver Stewart Smith, who scored off both the one-meter board and the platform at last

year's NCAA Championships. Also making a big splash for the Crimson Tide will be senior James Willcox and sophomore Darren Erasmus, who earned All-America honors last season as part of the Tide's relay crew.

Smith will be joined in the diving well by redshirt freshman Alan Harris, who missed last season after being sidelined by injuries suffered in a car accident, and true freshman Jesse Maple.

While Willcox will be the Tide's main man in the middle distance events, sophomore J.T. Jones and freshman Igor Erhartic will both lend a hand, although Jones' main focus will be the longer races. Jones is the Tide's first real distance threat since the mid-1990s.

Erasmus will lead Bama in the sprint freestyle events where he will be joined by senior Brendan Ashby. Providing depth in the sprints will be seniors Brad Willard and Jeff Smith along with sophomores Brent Arckey and Matt Schmidt.

The freestyle events will also get a boost from a pair of athletes returning to action this season. Troy Davidson, who sat out last

year after transferring from South Carolina, is a former high school All-America who made real strides during his redshirt season. He is expected to make an immediate impact in individual swims and on relays. Chris Flamion sat out last season after a strong freshman year. He returns to the Tide's lineup markedly stronger in both the freestyle and butterfly events.

With the departure of Gherghel, the Tide's butterfly corps doesn't have the front line fire power it did a year ago. But, the Tide does have Jones, who scored in the 200 fly at the SEC meet last year, to go with the return of Flamion and some measure of depth provided by sophomores Al-Qahtani and Guido Arroyo.

Ashby will shore up the Tide's backstroke events. In the breaststroke senior Adam Hall, and sophomore Bernardo Romero will attempt to fill in for Polyakov.

The individual medley events are in good hands with senior Ben Worby and rookie Tim Hansen. Worby is ranked fourth all-time for Alabama in both the 200 and 400 individual medley events.

Big Men Attract Bama's Attention

by Freddie Kirby

Tide looks around South
at blue chip linemen

Every analysis of this year's Alabama football recruiting goals includes the notation that Bama needs to use a high percentage of its scholarships for offensive and defensive linemen. This is the last year of reduced initial scholarships for the Crimson Tide. Of the 19 available grants this year it is expected that no fewer than eight and as many as 12 will be allocated to offensive and defensive linemen.

There are also needs at linebacker and tight end, as is almost always the case. Big time football teams need big men.

As always, Crimson Tide coaches will fill many of their needs with players from Alabama high school ranks. But also as always, Bama will look for blue chip prospects outside the state.

Here is a look at some of the top out-of-state "big man" prospects who have been linked with Alabama. These players are listed alphabetically by position.

TIGHT END

Alabama already has commitments from the state's top two prospects at tight end, but big, athletic players are capable of playing other positions and are always in demand. Here is a look at the only out-of-state tight end thought to be on Alabama radar.

Tom Santi is a 6-5, 220-pounder from Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville, Tennessee. He has been clocked at 4.52 seconds in the 40-yard dash and is considered the number one tight end prospect in Tennessee. Although he has the frame and temperament to be an outstanding blocker, as a junior he had 46 pass receptions for 650 yards and 12 scores. He has excellent strength and is academically qualified. He is hearing from Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Colorado, Alabama, LSU, Georgia Tech, Auburn, and Iowa.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Calvin Darity is a 6-3, 260, 5.05 guard from Lincoln High School in Tallahassee, Florida. He will be a qualifier and is considering

Florida State, Florida, Alabama, Auburn, Tennessee, UCLA, USC, Nebraska, Miami, and Virginia.

William Davis, 6-4, 283, 5.2, plays center at Corinth, Mississippi. His offensive line allowed just 10 sacks in 14 games. He benches 315 and squats 485 and has a 23-inch vertical jump. He attended camps at Grambling, Alabama, and Ole Miss. He will be a qualifier and lists his favorites as Alabama, Ole Miss, Mississippi State, Southern Miss, and Memphis.

Lamar Divens, 6-2, 270, 5.1, is a guard for Lincoln County in Fayetteville, Tennessee. He has the strength and agility to also play defensive tackle and had 45 tackles as a junior and halfway through his senior season had 30 tackles, four sacks, and nine quarterback hurries. He lists Tennessee, South Carolina, Vanderbilt, Alabama, Ole Miss, and Georgia.

Leon Hart, 6-4, 290, 5.1, is a guard at Spring Valley in Columbia, South Carolina. He graded 91 per cent blocking efficiency and was credited with 48 pancakes as a junior. He was all-region, all-state, and team MVP. He has a 27-inch vertical jump, benches 350 and squats 515. He has a 3.4 grade point average.

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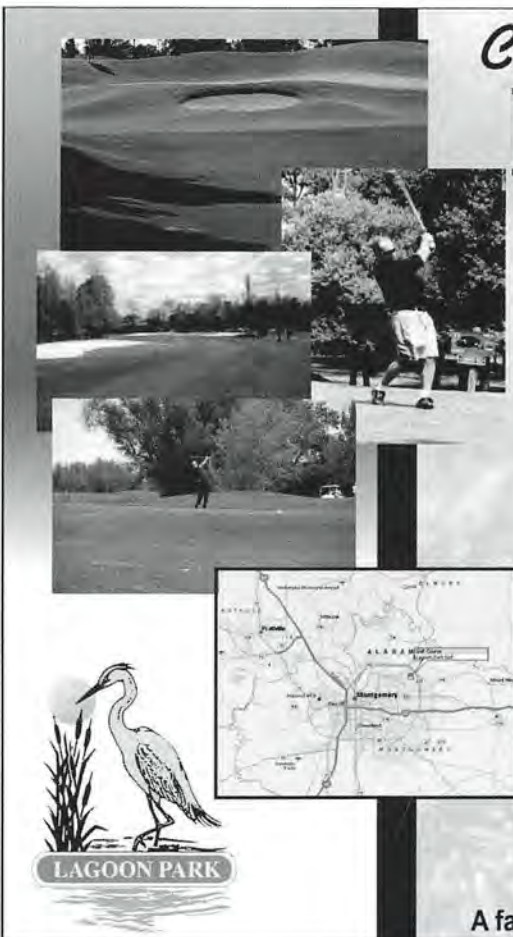
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He will visit South Carolina, Ohio State, and Virginia. He also lists Alabama, Clemson, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, and Auburn.

Brett Helms, 6-3, 300, 5.2, is a guard from Stuttgart, Arkansas. He is a three-year starter on both sides of the line of scrimmage. He benches 350 and squats 500, plus he is qualified. He will be a December graduate and go through spring practice with his college choice. He lists Arkansas, LSU, Nebraska, Tennessee, Alabama, Ole Miss, and Memphis.

Micah Jones, 6-5, 336, 5.15, is a tackle from Mayfield, Kentucky. He led his team to the Class A state championship as he graded 95 per cent blocking efficiency as a junior and led a rushing attack that accumulated 3031 yards. He was all-state as a junior and he should be All-South as a senior. He benches 365 and squats 450. He has a 2.2 GPA and has scored 21 on the ACT. He has offers from Auburn, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Michigan, Arkansas, Georgia, and Ole Miss.

Lance Lee, 6-6, 270, 5.2, is a tackle from Oxford, Mississippi. He has battled back from a dislocated kneecap during the off-season. He has never been graded as a blocker, but reliable observers say he would be in the high eighties. He attended several camps this summer including Alabama's. He was all-state as a junior. His mother, Mimi Williams Lee (basketball) and his uncle Pete Williams (football) played at Mississippi. He benches 330. He is not yet eligible. He is considering Mississippi, Mississippi State, Alabama, Auburn, and West Virginia.

Danny Mui, 6-3, 270, 5.1 is a center and guard from Lincoln in Tallahassee, Florida. He moved to Tallahassee from Miami. He has attended the Down and Dirty Lineman camp and that has developed his blocking skills against great competition. He graded 87 per cent with 37 pancake blocks as a junior. He hasn't maxed out in the weight room, but he has repped 225 a total of 16 times. He is academically eligible. He lists his top four as Nebraska, Alabama, Louisville, and Clemson.

Ryan Sefton, 6-5, 280, 5.4, is a guard and center from Harrison Central in Gulfport, Mississippi. He did not allow a sack and graded 88 per cent as a junior. He is an all-district selection who has a 24-inch vertical jump and camped at Alabama. He is also a long snapper. He benches 315 and squats 405. He has a 3.4 GPA and scored 19 on the ACT. He likes Alabama, Ole Miss, and Southern Miss as his top three.

Josh Sitton, 6-4, 297, 4.9, is a tackle at Pensacola Catholic. He also plays defensive end and was all-state as a junior. He has a 27-inch vertical jump, benches 320, squats 530, and power cleans 325. He has a 2.8 GPA and 21 ACT. He lists Alabama as his favorite and is also receiving interest from Florida, Georgia Tech, and Tennessee, among others.

Blake Slates, 6-3, 270, 5.08, is a guard from Paul Laurence Dunbar in Lexington, Kentucky. He graded 90 per cent as a junior. He benches 300 and squats 450. His dad, Steve Slates, played for Kentucky. He has a 3.0 GPA and he made 18 on the ACT. He lists Louisville, Kentucky, and Alabama.



Lance Lee

Jim Tartt, 6-4, 320, 5.2, is a guard from Wakulla in Crawfordville, Florida. He is also a competitive weightlifter and has a 420 bench press and 320 power clean. He is a full qualifier who lists Florida State, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Miami.

Jason Watkins, 6-8, 287, 5.0, is a tackle from Lake Gibson in Lakeland, Florida. He is originally from La Platte, Louisiana, but has lived in Florida for his high school career. He graded 90 per cent as a junior. He attended the Bishop Dullaghan Down and Dirty Lineman camp. He was all-county in both football and basketball. His cousin, Kerry Watkins, was a star receiver at Georgia Tech. He benches 320, squats 450, and power cleans 250. He has a 3.5 GPA, 970 SAT, and 19 ACT. He is considering Florida, LSU, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Georgia, Michigan State, Alabama, Miami, Purdue, and Florida State.

Josh Winchell, 6-5, 310, 5.0, is a tackle from Southaven, Mississippi. An all-region player, he was credited with 40 pancake blocks his senior year and he graded 85 per cent blocking efficiency. He benches 350 and squats 500 for one of the top programs in Mississippi. He will choose from Michigan, Nebraska, Mississippi State, Alabama, Auburn, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Demonte Bolden, 6-5, 315, 4.9, is a tackle from Tyner in Chattanooga. He is considered the top prospect in Tennessee, even though he has been injured as a senior. As a junior he had 140 tackles, 14 sacks, and 28 tackles for loss. Although he has been listed as committed to Tennessee, he plans to visit several schools, including Alabama on January 9. He is also looking at Georgia, North Carolina State, and Penn State.

Brandon Fanney, 6-5, 260, 4.7, is an end from Hamblen West in Morristown, Tennessee. He is an all-state performer who was also region and conference Defensive Player of the Year. He had 82 tackles, 18 sacks, and four fumble recoveries (one for a touch-

down) as a junior. He attended the Alabama camp and had a 30-inch vertical jump. He benches 315, squats 450, and power cleans 275. He has a 2.7 GPA. He lists his top three as Alabama, Virginia, and Virginia Tech. Florida State and Georgia are interested.

Brandon Lang, 6-5, 220, 4.5, is an end from Tucker, Georgia. He was credited with over 100 tackles his junior year, plus 16 sacks and 19 tackles for loss. He is all-state. His favorites are Georgia and Florida State. Louisville, Maryland, Arkansas, and Virginia round out his top six. Alabama showed early interest and may still be in the picture, along with Penn State and Illinois.

Jeremy Lomax, 6-5, 220, 4.65, is an end from Atlanta Lovejoy. He was all-county and all-region as a junior as he had 76 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, and 12 sacks. He has a 35-inch vertical jump and he has a 6-8 high jump. He has a 2.9 GPA. His favorites are Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, and Penn State.

Eric McClendon, 6-5, 283, 4.85, is a tackle from Vidalia, Georgia. He had 57 tackles, six sacks, eight tackles for loss, and 15 quarterback pressures as a junior. His combination of size, speed, pursuit skills, and dominating strength, make him a major candidate for the Peach State's number one player. He is a competition weightlifter who finished second in his class with a 375 bench press, 345 power clean, and 560 squat. He is taking night classes to gain eligibility. He likely is headed to Hargrave Military Prep School, but if he qualifies, Georgia is his leader, followed by Auburn, Florida, Florida State, Miami, Tennessee, and Alabama.

Cortez McCraney, 6-5, 235, 4.7, is an end from Southaven, Mississippi. He is playing his first year of football after having been a basketball player. In his first two games his senior year, he had 10 tackles and two sacks. He benches 225, has a 2.3 GPA, and scored 17 on the ACT. Interest comes from Mississippi State, Alabama, Auburn, Ole Miss, and Memphis.

Brandon Miller, 6-4, 225, 4.65, is an end from Miller County in Colquitt, Georgia. He had 98 tackles, 13 tackles for loss, six sacks, and three interceptions as a junior. He has been timed at 4.18 in the shuttle and his strength is already at college level. He has a 2.9 GPA and he took the SAT in October. He lists Georgia and Florida State as his top two, followed by Alabama, Auburn, Georgia Tech, Kentucky, and LSU.

Corey Mills, 6-5, 260, 4.8, is a tackle from Christian Brothers in Memphis. He posted 71 tackles, 14 tackles for loss, and eight sacks as a junior. He was a finalist for Tennessee's Mr. Football Award as a junior. His list includes Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Auburn, Ole Miss, South Carolina, Colorado, Mississippi State, and Memphis.

Xavier Mitchell, 6-4, 242, 4.8, is an end from Long Beach, Mississippi. He moved to the Magnolia State from Lakewood, California. He has a 76-inch reach and 34-inch vertical jump. He is a four-year starter who posted 70 tackles, five sacks, and one interception as a junior,

earning all-district. A good student (3.1 GPA), he plans to major in engineering. He benches 335, squats 535. He just went on his first official visit to Arizona State and is also looking at LSU, Tennessee, Ole Miss, Alabama, Mississippi State, South Carolina, and Southern Miss.

Frank Morton, 6-4, 280, 4.9, is a tackle from Southwest Dekalb in Decatur, Georgia. He is a starter on both sides of the line, but his college spot will likely be on defense. As a junior he had 128 tackles, eight sacks, and 24 tackles for loss and was second team all-state as an offensive guard. He has a long list that includes Oklahoma State, Ohio State, Auburn, Florida, Maryland, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Notre Dame, and Florida State.

Greg Smith, 6-1, 310, 5.0, is a nose guard from Tyner in Chattanooga. He plays in the shadow of teammate Demonte Bolden, but is a high division one prospect. He posted over 90 tackles from his interior position, but some believe he will be an offensive guard. He has a 23-inch vertical jump. He lists his top three as North Carolina State, Tennessee, and Auburn. He also has offers from Alabama, South Carolina, and Wake Forest.

Lorenzo Washington, 6-5, 275, 4.7, is a defensive end from Grayson in Loganville, Georgia. He is considered the top defensive end in Georgia and perhaps the best in the South. He is young (he will be 17 in December). His school has existed only four years and he led Grayson to the state playoffs last season. As a junior he had 70 tackles, 13 sacks, and four caused fumbles. He was all-state and is All-South this year. He is from San Diego, California, and his father played at Ohio State. He has excellent strength and is academically qualified. He lists Alabama and Georgia as his favorites, followed by Ohio State, Auburn, South Carolina, Maryland, Cincinnati, and Duke.

LINEBACKER

Emmanuel Frederick, 6-3, 245, 4.7, is a linebacker and defensive end from Hamblen West in Morristown, Tennessee. He was all-region, and all-conference as a junior after he produced 85 tackles, two interceptions, and one fumble recovery. His cousin, Kofi Boateg, is playing at Virginia Tech. He has camped at Alabama. He benches 325, squats 430, and power cleans 285. He has a 3.0 GPA and scored 17 on the ACT. He lists Virginia Tech, Tennessee, Alabama, Auburn, and North Carolina State.

Rodney Gallon, 6-0, 205, 4.5, is a linebacker from Tallahassee Lincoln. One of the elite linebackers in the south and a player that plays much bigger than his body would indicate. As a junior he was credited 106 tackles, 14 tackles for loss, three sacks, and four caused fumbles. Through four games as a senior he was on pace to eclipse his junior marks. He had 51 tackles, six tackles for loss, two sacks, and one caused fumble. He benches 345 and squats 485. He is on track to qualify and he likes Auburn, Florida State, Miami, Nebraska, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, and Iowa State.

Steve Gandy, 6-1, 190, 4.4, is an outside linebacker from Wayne County in Waynesboro, Mississippi. He was the defensive leader of the



Lorenzo Washington

Class 5A state champions with 110 tackles, three fumble recoveries, and one interception last year. He was first team all-state and could be declared the number one player in the Magnolia State. His athleticism was on display at Southern Miss and Auburn camps when he vertical jumped 34 inches, ran a 4.4 40, and showed excellent strength. He benches 230 and squats 405. He has a 3.0 GPA and scored 18 on the ACT. He could be a strong safety or outside linebacker in college. He is considering Alabama, Auburn, Nebraska, Ole Miss, LSU, Tennessee, Southern Miss, and West Virginia.

Wes Hofacker, 6-2, 225, 4.7, is a linebacker and defensive end from Allen High School in

Dallas. He was named his team's most improved player after his junior season when he had 65 primary tackles, 20 assists, five sacks, one interception, two caused fumbles, and three fumble recoveries. He has a 29-inch vertical jump, benches 345, squats 425, and power cleans 300. He has camped at Baylor, Alabama, TCU, Mississippi State, and Boston College. He has high interest in those five schools, plus Army. He has a 3.2 GPA.

Boston McConnell, 6-1, 225, 4.6, is a linebacker from Northeast in Macon, Georgia. An all-state linebacker, he was the defensive leader for a 9-3 playoff team his junior year. He had 111 tackles in his freshman year, followed that his sophomore season with 102 tackles and four sacks, then broke out his junior year with 144 tackles and six sacks. He benches 325 and squats 455. He is considering Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, and Marshall.

Andrew McKain, 6-1, 220, 4.65, is a linebacker and fullback from Tucker, Georgia. He led his team with 124 tackles. He benches 420, squats 485, and power cleans 300. He will be a qualifier and is considering Georgia, Alabama, Auburn, Tennessee, and Furman. He is also an excellent baseball player.

Garry Pack, 6-1, 210, 4.5, is a linebacker from Oak Grove in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He is an all-state academic as well as all-state football selection. In his first three games as a senior, he had 27 tackles, plus had rushed for 375 yards and eight touchdowns. He has camped at LSU, Ole Miss, and Southern Miss. He benches 375 and is already qualified. He lists his top choices as Ole Miss, Tennessee, Florida State, LSU, and Alabama.

Zac West, 5-11, 212, 4.65, is a linebacker and strong safety from Germantown, Tennessee. One of the top linebackers in the Memphis area, he has routinely averaged 10 tackles a game as a senior. He is the second fastest player on his team in the pro agility shuttle. He had 80 tackles as a junior, but he got everyone's attention his freshman year when he was forced into action in the school's first round playoff game and turned in 17 tackles. He was selected a defensive captain his senior year and has led his team back to the playoffs. He benches 300 and squats 385. A good student, he is receiving attention from the Ivy League as well as the likes of Alabama, Ole Miss and Mississippi State.

Narada Williams, 6-4, 200, 4.63, is an outside linebacker and defensive end from Douglas County in Douglasville, Georgia. He had over 70 tackles as a junior. He lists Cincinnati, Vanderbilt, Arkansas, Alabama, and Valdosta State.

Ellix Wilson, 6-0, 205, 4.5, is a linebacker and strong safety from Melrose in Memphis. He is the brother of former Tennessee star Cedrick Wilson, who went on to the NFL's San Francisco. He is a four-year starter. Through his junior year, he has 12 interceptions (six as a freshman, three as a sophomore, three as a junior). He has been timed at 10.6 in the 100 meters. He has camped at Arkansas. His top six are Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Michigan, Michigan State, and Ole Miss.

Seven Committed For Tide Football

Will Oakley, a 6-1, 190-pound wide receiver from Nease High School in St. Augustine, Florida, has become the seventh prospect to announce that he will sign to play football at Alabama. He is the fourth wide receiver to announce for Bama.

Oakley, who said he was a lifelong Alabama fan, is the leading receiver in the state of Florida through October 24. He had 53 receptions for 1,040 yards and 14 touchdowns. He has been clocked at 4.45 seconds in the 40-yard dash.

Both of Oakley's parents are Alabama graduates. His father, Bill, played baseball for Bama.

Previously announced as committed to sign with Alabama on February 4 are:

Tight end Trent Davidson, 6-5, 242, of T.R. Miller in Brewton; cornerback Aaron Johns, 5-10, 185, of Thomasville; wide receiver Aaron McDaniel, 6-1, 170, of Fort Payne; wide receiver Titus Ryan, 6-2, 200, of Tuscaloosa and East Mississippi Community College; wide receiver Nikita Stover, 6-2, 187, of Hartselle; and tight end Nick Walker, 6-5, 235, of Pike County in Brundidge.

Early Signing Period Is Promising

by Kirk McNair

Basketball, gymnastics, baseball expect signees

In the nearly 20 years the Alabama Sports Writers Association has been selecting a "Mr. Basketball"—the top high school basketball player in the state—the group had never selected anyone but a senior. That is until last season. And it wasn't such a surprise. After all, the state prep ranks included some of the nation's highest-profile players.

But just as the award didn't go to a senior like Jordan Howell, the Huntsville guard who first signed with Georgia then went to Tennessee, it also didn't go to highly-publicized big men like D.J. White of Tuscaloosa Hillcrest or Mike Williams of Camden Wilcox-Central. And while the 6-8 White intends to go to Indiana and the 6-7 Williams will play at Texas, Alabama Head Coach Mark Gottfried has to be happy.

That's because last year's Mr. Basketball, Ronnie Steele of Birmingham John Carroll, was an early commitment to Alabama. This year Steele, who also stars for the Cavaliers in football, will be working to extend his prep basketball team's 36-game winning streak. Last year John Carroll became only the fifth team in history to go undefeated and win the state 6A championship. And Steele, who was named Most Valuable Player in the state tournament, averaged 19 points, 7.6 assists, and 4.1 steals per game. He was named to the North squad in the 2003 Alabama All-Star Sports Week North-South All-Star game. He was ranked the 43rd best prospect and eighth best point guard prospect in the nation by TheInsiders.com and Dave Telep, the nation's number one basketball recruiting expert.

His father, Ronald Steele, Sr., said, "He was impressed with the coaching staff. He likes Coach (Mark) Gottfried and Coach (Philip) Pearson and he was impressed with the campus. And being near home was another factor." It also didn't hurt that Ronnie's mother is an Alabama graduate.

While Steele committed to Alabama in mid-May, he will officially join the Crimson Tide when he signs with Bama in the early signing period, November 12-19.

Steele picked Bama over Kentucky, Vanderbilt, Auburn, and Alabama-Birmingham.

Going into this season, Alabama is bemoaning the early defection of Mo Williams to the NBA, leaving the Tide without a true point guard. While most expect Steele to fill that position beginning next season, Steele is not the only guard expected to join the Alabama men's basketball team in the early signing period.

Alabama has commitments from two other high school guards and one junior college forward. They are guard Albert Weber of Mount Zion Christian Academy in Durham, North Carolina; guard Glenn Miles of Birmingham West End; and forward Jean Felix of Bevill State Community College in Sumiton. Alabama can sign as many as five new players and at least one prep forward has been identified as a Crimson Tide recruiting target. He is 6-9, 215-pound Walter Sharpe of Birmingham Parker.

Weber, 6-2, 170, is ranked 51st in the nation and 13th best strong guard in the nation by TheInsiders.com after he averaged 21 points, five assists, and four rebounds per game for the outstanding Mount Zion team. He is originally from New Orleans and played at Higgins High School before going to Mount Zion prior to his junior year. He is an excellent outside shooter. He picked Bama over Texas and Connecticut.

Miles, 6-4, 185, led his team to the finals of the 5A state championship last year. He averaged 16 points and, even though he played point guard, 10 rebounds per game. He is listed as either a point guard or shooting guard by most recruiting analysts. Telep ranks him as the 88th best player in the nation, and the 17th best point guard prospect. Some services rank him as high as 54th as a wing guard. Although he was said to have selected Bama over Alabama-Birmingham, he said, "I was always going to Alabama. I'm a lifelong Tide fan."

Felix, 6-6, is originally from Paris, France. He was a junior college all-America honorable mention as a freshman last year as he averaged 18.6 point and 8.2 rebounds per game.

The early signing period is utilized by most men's and women's winter and spring sports. (Fall sports, including football and soccer, have a December signing period for early graduates, but primarily only the February signing period. Winter and spring sports have another signing period beginning in April.)

While men's basketball gets most of the attention in the early signing period, and particularly this season with three Top 100 players slated to sign, it is difficult to imag-

ine anyone having a better recruiting year than Gymnastics Coach Sarah Patterson.

Whereas college sports are preparation for the next level for many athletes, that is not ordinarily the case in gymnastics. The top gymnasts historically eschew college competition for national and international training. However, this year Patterson has attracted a pair of stars who have excelled on the international level and who are United States Olympics hopefuls.

It had previously been announced that Terin Humphrey of Blue Spring, Missouri, a member of the 2003 United States team that won the gold medal at the World Championships, would sign with Bama. Additionally, Alabama will add Kaitlin White of Allen, Texas, who was also selected to the United States team.

Humphrey has been on the United States national team for four years and is expected to be selected for the 2004 U.S. Olympics team. She competes for the Great American Gymnastics Express team under Al Fong and Armine Barutyan.

White is an Olympic hopeful who has competed for the United States in the Goodwill Games and other international competitions. She picked Bama over Georgia and Michigan. Two of her teammates from the World Olympic Gymnastics Academy in Plano selected Georgia. White qualified for the 2003 United States team, but was not able to compete because of an injury. In fact she has had a number of injuries, but says she is fully healed. White has had to adjust to a recent growth spurt, eight inches in the past 18 months. That shot her up to 5-4.

Also announcing for Alabama is Mindy Weber of Mooresville, North Carolina. She has performed for Coach Elene Bodrikoze at The Gym Company for the past six years. "She is good on the vault and bars," Bodrikoze said. "She is strong and she has good muscle and her routines are so clean."

Coach Rick Moody and staff had a very strong recruiting year in 2002-03 and look to be having another one with three strong prospects committed to the Tide. They are:

Mamie Rutherford, a 6-2 guard from Hatton High School; Lateefah Joye, a 5-10 guard from New York; and Chanel Johnson, a 6-3 post player from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Rutherford was the 2A Player of the Year in Alabama last year and a three-time all-state performer. She averaged 20 points and 11 rebounds per game last year. She led her team to the 2001 state championship. She is coached by her mother, Cophia Rutherford,

and is the daughter of former Alabama football player Dexter Rutherford. She was her school's homecoming queen this year and has a 4.0 grade point average. She selected Bama over Auburn and Georgia.

Joye plays at the Patterson School in North Carolina and is rated the number nine guard and number 26 player in the nation. She plays for the New York Exodus AAU team. She was recruited by Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Kansas and Rutgers.

Johnson, who plays at Edison High School in Tulsa, is the top-rated post player and number three overall in Oklahoma. She picked Bama over Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Tulsa, LSU, and Georgia.

Baseball insiders report that Alabama could add as many as 10 players in the early signing period. Coach Jim Wells is expected to be particularly interested in adding pitchers, infielders, and a catcher.

One name making the rounds is Adam Tennyson, who won't have to travel far. Tennyson is a former Holt High School standout in Tuscaloosa who now pitches for former Bama pitcher Bobby Sprowl at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa. Tennyson's brother, Aaron, is already on the Bama squad.

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2003-04 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent	CST/TV
Nov. 1	Intrasquad Game	6:00
Nov. 8	Global Sports (Exh.) Coaches Vs. Cancer	TBA
@ Madison Square Garden, New York		
Nov. 14	Pittsburgh	6:00/ESPN2
Nov. 21	Louisiana Tech	7:00
Nov. 25	Southeastern Louisiana	7:00/CSS
Nov. 29	@ Providence	6:00
Dec. 3	NC-Charlotte	8:00/FoxSouth
Dec. 6	Austin Peay	4:00/CSS
Dec. 13	Athletes In Action (Exh.)	6:00
Dec. 16	Tennessee-Chatanooga Las Vegas Showdown	7:00
Dec. 20	Oregon	9:00/ESPN2
Dec. 27	Mercer	6:00/CSS
Dec. 30	Wisconsin	8:00/FoxSouth
Jan. 3	@ Xavier	2:30/ESPN
Jan. 10	@ LSU	2:00/J-P
Jan. 14	Arkansas	7:00
Jan. 17	Auburn	7:00/FoxSouth
Jan. 21	@ Georgia	6:00
Jan. 24	@ Mississippi	5:00/FoxSouth
Jan. 27	Florida	7:30/ESPN2
Jan. 31	LSU	7:00/FoxSouth
Feb. 4	@ South Carolina	6:30
Feb. 10	@ Kentucky	6:00/ESPN
Feb. 14	Tennessee	2:00/J-P
Feb. 18	Vanderbilt	7:00
Feb. 21	@ Mississippi State	3:00/CBS
Feb. 24	@ Auburn	8:00/ESPN
Feb. 28	Mississippi	3:00/J-P
March 3	@ Arkansas	7:00/J-P
March 6	Mississippi State	TBA
March 11	SEC Tournament	TBA/J-P, CBS
March 14	@ Atlanta	

Men's Swimming

Date	Opponent	CST
Oct. 10	Bama Instrasquad	4:00
Oct. 11	Bama Alumni	11:00
	138 @ LSU	99
Nov. 16	La-Monroe, Drury, & Delta St. @ Cleveland, Miss.	5:00
Nov. 21	@ Auburn	5:00
Dec. 5-7	Georgia Invitational	All Day
Dec. 15-	Training Camp	All Day
Dec. 21	@ Colorado Springs, Colo.	
Jan. 9	Georgia	4:00
Jan. 10	Georgia Tech	1:00
Jan. 23	@ Florida State	2:00
Jan. 24	@ Florida	Noon
Jan. 30	@ South Carolina	3:00
Jan. 31	Clemson, North Carolina St. @ Raleigh	11:00
Feb. 11-15	US Nationals @ Orlando, Fla.	All Day
Feb. 25-28	SEC Championships @ Athens, Ga.	All Day
Mar. 5	Last Chance @ Auburn	TBA
Mar. 12-14	NCAA Zone Diving @ Athens, Ga.	All Day
Mar. 25-	NCAA Championships	
Mar. 27	@ Long Island, N.Y.	All Day

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent	CST
Nov. 9	Berry College (Exh.)	2:00
Nov. 18	Premier Players (Exh.)	7:00
Nov. 24	@ Michigan	7:00
Rocky Mountain Invite @ Ft Collins, Colo.		
Nov. 28	Boston College	6:0p0
Nov. 29	Colorado State or Long Beach State	6:00 or 8:30
Dec. 2	Jacksonville State	7:00
Dec. 5	Texas-San Antonio	7:00
Dec. 7	Virginia Tech	2:00
Dec. 15	Tennessee Tech	7:00
Central Florida Classic @ Orlando, Fla.		
Dec. 18	Central Florida	4:00
Dec. 19	Bethune-Cookman	4:00
Dec. 21	@ Florida International	1:00
Dec. 29	@ Santa Clara	4:00
Jan. 3	Houston	2:00
Jan. 8	@ Middle Tennessee	6:00
Jan. 11	South Carolina	7:00
Jan. 15	Mississippi	7:00
Jan. 18	@ Tennessee	2:00
Jan. 22	@ Auburn	7:00
Jan. 25	Mississippi State	2:00
Jan. 29	@ Florida	6:00
Feb. 1	@ Georgia	1:00
Feb. 5	LSU	7:00
Feb. 8	Vanderbilt	2:00
Feb. 12	@ South Carolina	6:00
Feb. 15	Arkansas	2:00
Feb. 22	@ Kentucky	1:00
Feb. 26	Auburn	7:00
Feb. 29	@ Mississippi State	2:00
March 4-	SEC Tournament	TBA
March 7	@ Nashville	

Women's Swimming

Date	Opponent	CST
Oct. 10	Bama Instrasquad	4:00
Oct. 11	Bama Alumni	11:00
	137 @ LSU	104
Nov. 16	La-Monroe, Drury, & Delta St. @ Cleveland, Miss.	5:00
Nov. 21	@ Auburn	5:00
Dec. 5-7	Georgia Invitational	All Day
Dec. 15-	Training Camp	All Day
Dec. 21	@ Colorado Springs, Colo.	
Jan. 9	Georgia	4:00
Jan. 10	Georgia Tech	1:00
Jan. 23	@ Florida State	2:00
Jan. 24	@ Florida	Noon
Jan. 30	@ South Carolina	3:00
Jan. 31	Clemson, North Carolina St. @ Raleigh	11:00
Feb. 11-15	US Nationals @ Orlando, Fla.	All Day
Feb. 25-28	SEC Championships @ Athens, Ga.	All Day
Feb. 29	Last Chance @ Athens	All Day
Mar. 12-14	NCAA Zone Diving @ Athens, Ga.	All Day
Mar. 20-	NCAA Championships	All Day
Mar. 22	@ College Station, Texas	

Gymnastics

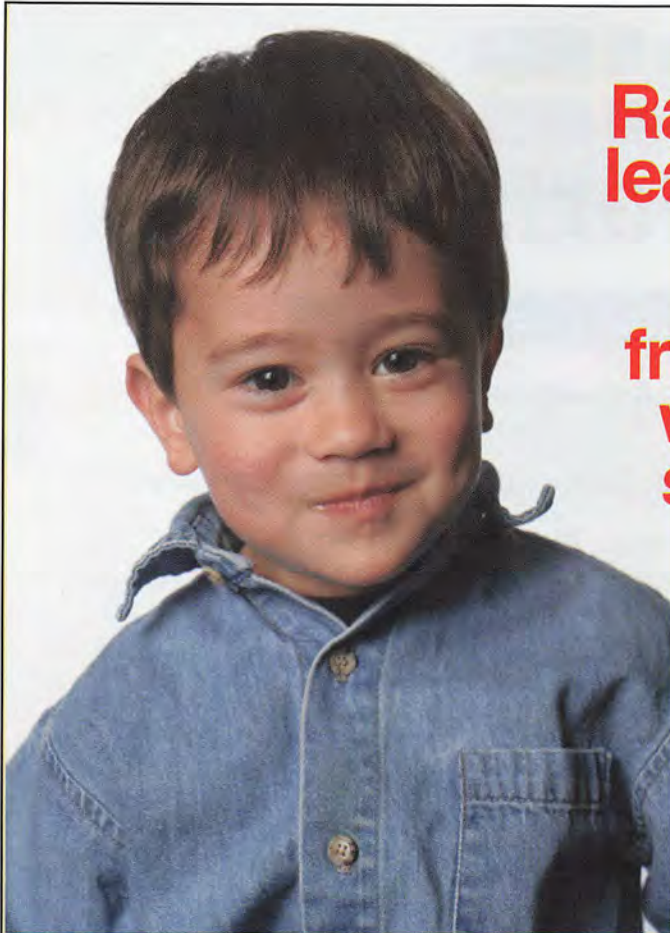
Date	Opponent	CST
Jan. 9	Super Six Challenge (Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Oklahoma, Denver, Oregon State)	7:00
Jan. 16	Penn State	7:30
Jan. 23	@ LSU	7:00
Jan. 30	Florida	7:30
Feb. 6	@ Auburn	7:00
Feb. 13	@ Kentucky	6:30
Feb. 20	Georgia	7:30
Feb. 27	Arkansas	7:30
March 12	@ Michigan	7:00
March 20	SEC Championships @ Gwinnett, Georgia	6:00
April 3	NCAA Regionals @ TBA	
April 15-	NCAA Championships	
April 17	@ Los Angeles	

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 16-17	Kentucky Invitational @ Lexington, Ky.
Jan. 23-24	Niswonger Invitational @ Johnson City, Tenn.
Feb. 6-7	Meyo Invitational @ South Bend, Ind.
Feb. 13-14	Tyson Invitational @ Fayetteville, Ark.
Feb. 28-29	SEC Championships @ Lexington, Ky.
March 5-6	Last Chance @ South Bend, Ind.
Mar. 12-13	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville, Ark.

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event
Jan. 16-17	Kentucky Invitational @ Lexington, Ky.
Jan. 23-24	Niswonger Invitational @ Johnson City, Tenn.
Feb. 6-7	Meyo Invitational @ South Bend, Ind.
Feb. 13-14	Tyson Invitational @ Fayetteville, Ark.
Feb. 28-29	SEC Championships @ Lexington, Ky.
March 5-6	Last Chance @ South Bend, Ind.
Mar. 12-13	NCAA Championships @ Fayetteville, Ark.



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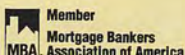
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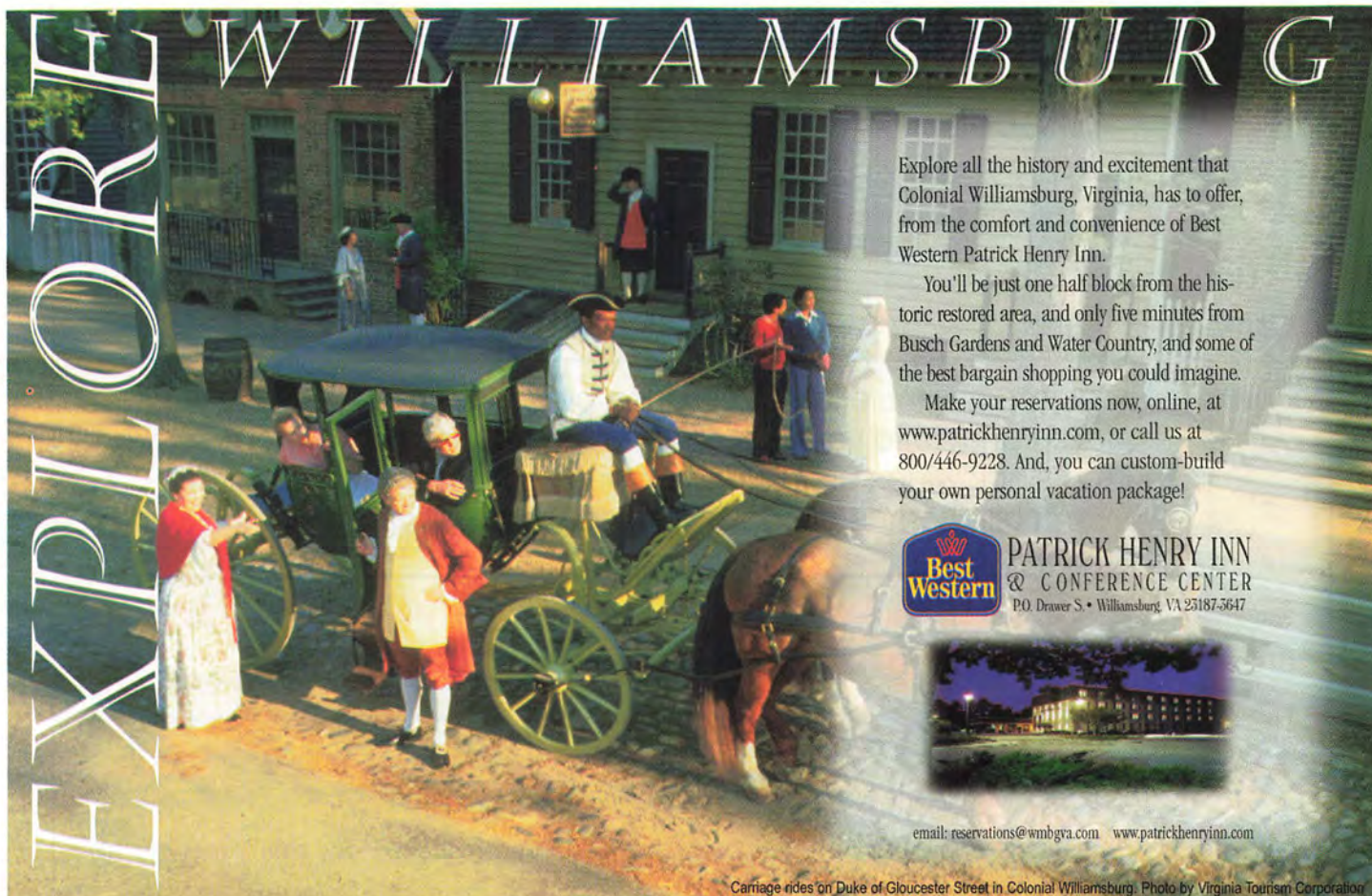
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Carriage rides on Duke of Gloucester Street in Colonial Williamsburg. Photo by Virginia Tourism Corporation

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Florence
Oakley
Equipment
256-764-9899

Hamilton
Goodson
Feed Company
205-921-4493

Henagar
Bowman-Weaver
Equipment
256-657-3256

Killen
Neal's Tire &
Appliance
256-757-5121

Madison
Lawn Mower Plus
256-895-0779

Moulton
Moulton Implement
256-974-5021

Sardis City
Fairtown
256-593-7182

Scottsboro
Maynard
Equipment
256-259-3329

Selma
Overlook Motors
334-872-2132

Snead
Snead
Equipment
205-487-2103

Talladega
Talladega
International
256-362-6113

Tallassee
Holt Auto Sales &
Equipment
334-283-6507

Tanner
McCutcheon Tractor
256-232-9115

Tuscumbia
Tri-County Int'l
256-383-6601

Warrior
Roger's True Value
205-647-6921

Winfield
Spann Hardware
205-487-2103

Cub Cadet
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